for setting up of a National Judicial Council to look into the allegations of misconduct against the Judges. The proposed National Judicial Council would also be empowered to draw up a Code of Conduct for the Judges. The Bill was examined by the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee which has since submitted its report. The Report is being examined.

Land acquired for mining activities in Jharkhand

4071. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Relief and Rehabilitation Policy of Government for those whose land is taken for coal and mining activities in Jharkhand;

(b) whether Government is aware that lakhs of tribals are rendered landless labourers, after the Central Government or the State Governments took their land for mining and other industrial or public activities;

(c) how their rehabilitation is proposed; and

(d) whether Government has the complete data, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) The Government has announced the National Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) Policy, 2007 on 31.10.2007. The policy provides for certain basic minimum requirements for the people who are adversely affected by all the projects, including mining activities, leading to involuntary displacement. The R&R grants and benefits envisaged in the Policy applicable to all Project Affected Families include provision for alternate land, free house, financial assistance, employment etc. The details of R&R Policy are available on the web site of Ministry of Rural Development. Relief and Rehabilitation of land oustees whose land is being taken for coal mining in the State of Jharkhand, is done as per the Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy of Coal India Limited. Department of Land Resources has informed that information about the Relief and Rehabilitation of tribals whose land was taken for coal and mining activities in the State of Jharkhand is not maintained.

Objections to Mineral Policy

†4072. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States have expressed objections in respect of new mineral policy formulated by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objections of the States;

(c) whether Government had invited suggestions from the concerned States, while formulating the mineral policy;

(d) if so, what suggestions were given by the States; and

(e) the details of the action taken on them by Government?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The Government had received representation from some states on the new National Mineral Policy, 2008 raising

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

concerns on the need to allow the State Government to give preference to value addition within the state and allow preferential treatment in grant of mineral concessions to PSUs. these issues had been considered and appropriately addressed by the Government before the enunciation of National Mineral Policy, 2008. The Government has approved new National Mineral Policy, 2008 on 13.3.2008. The new National Mineral Policy has been tabled in the Parliament and is available on website of Ministry of Mines (http://mines.nic.in).

(c) to (e) The new National Mineral Policy, 2008, was enunciated after consultations with various stakeholders, including the State Governments. Several suggestion of the chief mineral bearing States on the issue of value addition, exploration over large areas, levying of royalty on ad-valorem basis were considered and appropriately addressed in the new Policy.

Development of areas near mines

4073. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is taking any steps for the development of surrounding areas, close to the mining areas, which would further improve the living conditions of the people living there;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken in the said direction in this regard and the financial allocations made for the purpose and the utilization thereof during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) Mining is an economic activity entailing investment in mining areas which contributes to economic growth and development of surrounding areas also. As per available information, some of the mining companies are contributing for peripheral development around the mining areas, *i.e.* on housing, water supply, health medical facilities and education etc. However, details of contribution made by these companies for peripheral development are not centrally maintained.

Royalty on Minerals

4074. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the State have lost tens of thousands of crores of rupees over the years, due to non-revision and/or delayed revision of the royalty on various minerals, as well as its refusal to consider *ad-valorem* royalty for certain major minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would compensate the States for these losses at least for the last 25 years and; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Under Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), royalty rates shall not be enhanced more than once during any period of three years. Royalty rates for major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing), which have been fixed on